

A

REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

Thursday, June 24. 1708.

In my last I gave you some Hints at the new and mysterious Divisions in the North of Britain, and told you a Word or two of a new Denomination of People there, called the SQUADRONE: But before I go on to tell you much more of the Particulars of those things, shall I ask you a Question or two?

How came Scotland to be thus divided, and where did they learn it?

And to introduce an Answer to this Question, I cannot but tell you a short Story; There was, at the time that the late Parliament of Scotland was sitting, and the great Affair of the Union was before them, a Book printed, said to be written by one Mr. Hodges in England, but sent down into

Scotland, and dispers'd there by a Party; the Book was Entituled, *The Rights and Interests of the two British Monarchies, &c.* and was wrote to prove the Union inconsistent with the Happiness of Scotland, by Reason of several interfering Interests; and among the rest he tells *Scotland*, what perhaps you may laugh at in *England*, but I wish it may not be found too true in one Sence, tho' I hope not in the Sence he design'd it for, Viz. That Sin in *Scotland* is but shamefaced, timerous and lurking, in Comparison of what it is in *England*, and especially at *London*, and then goes on to enumerate all our Crimes in a List that has too much Truth in it.

The

The Application is not so just as the Charge, tho' one Part of it will reach with Case I am upon very exactly.

1. That they (*Scotland*) can never so incorporate with *England* as to become ONE People, but they must at the same time contract a Share in the Guilt of all their provoking National Sins.

2. That these National Sins then becoming the Sins of *Scotland* as well as of *England*, *Scotland* must certainly become liable to a Share also in all the Plagues, Punishments and Judgments, that upon the continuing their Impenitency, GOD may think fit to inflict upon them.

Now, not to enter into the Author's Inferences drawn from hence to his Country Men against the Union, I must however tell you this very plainly, that we have too much tainted *Scotland* with the abominable Divisions that over-spread our own Nation, and whether it will extend, but much more where it will end. Time alone must discover.

It is but a melancholly Reflection to make, and the Prospect is full of very unhappy Particulars. 1. To look back on the debauching your new united Brethren with the Briberies, Corruptions, and horrid Variety of ill Practices, which for many years past have ruin'd the Morals of this Nation. And, 2. To view the miserable Consequences of the Divisions, which are now beginning to be formed in that Part of the World; I must mention them apart.

1. Our infecting *Scotland* with the Divisions and Parties that have come to so great a Head among us, and particularly with their Consequent *Elections*; It is bad among us in *England*, but in *Scotland* it is far worse, because the Suffrages in *Scotland* are not made by the greatest People, such as our *Freeholders*, whom we call *Freeholders*, generally are; but by the *Gentry* Althg. whole Kingdom; few, if any in *Scotland* hope the *Gentry* and *Lairds*, having any. *Vote* in the *Elections*; nor is the Tenure of Lands the same there as here, or the Value of Freehold entitling a Man to vote the same; since by the *Scots Act* of

Parliament 1681, which determin'd the Qualifications of voting, the Person must have Land holding of the Queen of 40 s. *Scots Old Extent*, or of 400 l. *Scots present Income*; either of which is equivalent at least to 25 l. *Sterling per Annum*, the generally it comes to more, 400 l. *Scots being 33 l. 6 s. 8 d. Sterling*.

Now it is manifest, that the Corruptions of Elections are of much more fatal Consequences, when introduced among Persons of Estates and Interest in their Country; whether these Corruptions are down-right plain Bribery or no; I do not say, that Bribery can so readily reach Men of Estates, as meaner Men, and I allow, it is not ordinarily so; but in the Case I am upon, the Bribery of Interest, the Bribery of the Passions in Party-Quarrels, and Personal Pique, Family-Divisions, and the like, are as fatal as any; and as they will go farther among Men of Quality and Estates, so they will last longer, and every way have more dangerous Consequences than in other Cases.

And have we infected *Scotland* with our Divisions? Let us remember we may have given them a Disease, all their Skill in State-Physick, and ours too, will be little enough to cure; It's hard, no Nation can have to do with us, but we will debauch their Morals, confound their Politicks, and set them together by the Ears, just as we are ourselves.

2. And what shall we say to the Consequences of these things? Really, they are bad enough every way, shall I name a few? 1. The Mouths of those that formerly ex-claim'd against the Union, are kept open by it, and they have too much Cause given them to boast of being true Prophets, in that they foretold, that such a National Peace, as we promised them, is not produced by the Union; and how should we assist in the Peace and Tranquility of any Nation, that have so effectually destroy'd our own? 2. We have for ever stopt our own Mouths at the Factions and Divisions, which may follow this unhappy Temper, as being produced, from our selves, and taken directly from our immediate Example. 3. We can never pretend to blame *Scotland*, let their Divisions rise up to what Height

Weight they will, since upon every Anti-adverſion we shall think fit to make upon that Head, they will immediately revert upon us, *Physicians heal your ſelves.* 4. All these Diviſions in Scotland, and all the *Squadron-War* that is raiſed there, is only to qualify the Gentlemen, when they come up here, to look like their Neighbours, and ſome People ſay, it is nothing but a farther Testimony, that this is an incorporating Union.

As to all the wild Extremes that this new Diviſion in Scotland produces, I have been

thinking ſometimes to let you ſee a Sketch of them; but really when I conſider, how much it will run back upon us in England, as the true Origins, how effectually it will reproach us, with having debauch'd the Politicks of Scotland, and what unhappy Debts of Crime we may run behind in, that I ſee no Likelihoode of our Repeſence for, I think, I had as good let it ſleep, for Fear of Libelling my own Country, as one call'd *the True-Born-Englishman*, that is, ſpeaking a Parcel of unhappy Truths that ſhould too much expoſe you.

MISCELLANEA.

I Entertain'd you with a new Dialogue between the Author of this Paper and a mad Man, upon an Occasional Rencounter; the Story has a real Foundation in Matter of Fact, but how far, and to how much Purpose the Humour may be improvid'd, Time muſt ſhew; they are now met again.

Mad Man. Well, Mr. Review, are you prepared to talk with a mad Man any more, ſays the Bedlamite?

Review. You pretend to be mad, and yet you talk after a Manner, that the People will ſay you are more Fool than mad-Man, and more Knows than either.

M. Nay. I'll prove my ſelf mad, for I'll ſpeak Truth, and none but mad Men, you know, will ſpeak Truth at ſuch a Time of Day as this is.

Rev. If you ſpeak Truths like a mad Man, the Review may be pinch'd for it like a sober One, therefore look to what you ſay,

M. I say, all the World is mad, let them diſprove it that can, that's my firſt General; I'll defend to Particulars with them when they will; you stand calling *High-Fliers* mad, and *Jacobites* mad; and here you pick out one mad Prank, and there another; here one mad Party, and there another; but I tell you, they are all mad from one End of the World to another, and all they do has an Air of Madneſſ in it, mad Projects, mad Parties, mad Methods, mad

War, mad Peace, mad Trade, mad Everything; I tell you they are all mad, will you come to Particulars with me?

Rev. Where will you begin?

M. Where you please, and of what you please.

Rev. Well, WAR is the Subject of *the Review*, you know, begin there; what have you to ſay to that?

M. War is a Madness of itſelf, and it is no Wonder to ſee it madly carry'd on— And what think you of the War between the S... and the N... out-yonder in the North, where they fight beſt when they ſee their Breath, which by the way is all the Year round?

Rev. No Names, no Names, you'll be mad indeed if you go thereabouts again; what have mad Men no Memory?

M. Let me alone for that; if Folks muſt not be named by their *Sir-Names*, nor their *Christian-Names*, they may be named by their *Heathen Names*, or in English by their *Actions*. Pray, what do you think of what have you to day to making War on both fides, without giving any Quarter? Is not that making War like mad Men? Is it a War or a Butchery? Are such People in their Wits, or are they mad Men? Wild Creatures let loose by Heavens to depopulate the Creation, and lead the Nations to Eternity the shorteft Way?

Rev. I:

Rev. I cannot deny, but there is something barbarous in such a thing, but it may be the Custom of those Countries.

M. Don't tell me of the Custom of Countries, then it is the Custom of the Country to be mad, and that brings all home to my Point; Was ever any Nation, but of Lunatics, so furious as to fight by Hundreds of Thousands, and resolve to spare none of either side? That is just knocking out one another's Brains, to see who shall have done first. What do you think of the 12 young Men of a side in the Scripture, that rose up to play with one another? Was not Abner and Joab two mad Fellows to call it Playing, when Men were cutting one another's Throats, or else the 24 were a Sort of mad Fellows, that in Play shoud go to kill one another? There are none but mad Men play after that Fashion, 2 Sam. 2. 14.

Rev. This is all remote, and you'll be a long time bringing it down to our Times, and nothing can be of Use to us, but what touches the Affairs we are about now.

M. Nay, if you want Applications, you may bring it home to our Party-War in Britain; and pray, do we give any Quarter here? Are we not every Jot as mad as the S.... and M....? Do we do any thing more or less than butcher and murder one another, murther one another's Reputation and Interests, and murther our Country? I tell you, they are all mad.

Rev. Your Application is but too just, and we shall come to them all in their Turn.

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